Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May 1869.

No. 235. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd April 1869, No. 2,759 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 23rd March 1869, No. 85 B:—

1. Adverting to the Board's Proceedings noted, I have the honour to observe that, as the Board are aware, there are no public irrigation works in Malabar, and indeed few private ones on any considerable scale.

18th November 1867, No. 7,514.

2. I am not in a position to submit any definite scheme for consideration, but I am strongly of opinion that many localities would be found in Malabar where storage of portions of the enormous water-supply that now runs off unemployed to the sea during the monsoon might be most advantageously made. The undulating nature of the country whilst in some places it may tend to render storage easy, certainly tends greatly to increase the difficulty of economical and profitable distribution. The porous nature of the laterite soils must also be considered, and the land tenure has its bearing on the question.

3. However, I believe that in the Palghaut talook especially, and indeed throughout Malabar, a qualified Engineer would have no difficulty in selecting sites where water might be stored and distributing channels constructed to the extreme benefit of the country. Terms might easily be arranged with the landlords, who would purchase water gladly.

4. I have spoken to several Range Officers on the subject of storage and distribution of water at times, but their hands have been and are well occupied with the communications. None that I have met with have had any practical experience of irrigation in similar localities, and I think the general (though surely mistaken) idea is that irrigation is not wanted in Malabar.

5. There is no doubt that any scheme of the sort in such a country would require very careful consideration and execution ; but with these conditions I believe it would be beneficial and remunerative.

I would suggest that the opinion of the Department Public Works be taken on the matter.

Submitted for the orders of Government. The Board agree with the Collector in thinking that it should not be taken for granted that irrigation is entirely uncalled for in Malabar ; the subject is one which merits the careful attention of Engineers.

2. Rice is almost exclusively the food of the people, and the district is dependant on imports for a large portion of its consumption of this grain.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Fort St. George,
30*th April* 1869.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May **1869.**

No. 236. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1869, No. 1,543.

IRRIGATION, No. 18.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, who will submit his views on the subject of the storage and distribution of water for irrigation purposes in the Malabar District.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
" Chief Engr. for Irrigation

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P. W. D.

No. 1543

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 11th May/69

1828

Read the following

Pro: of the Board of Reve } Here enter No. 2759 of 23rd April/69

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Dn., who will submit his views on the subject of the storage and distribution of water for irrigation purposes in the Malabar District

To The S. Engr. 7th Dn.
" Rev: Depart
" Bd. of Rev:
" Chief Engr. for Irrigation

Desp. 12/5/69

Cue 1828

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr.
7th Division

Dated

Recd. Enc.

G. O. 11th May 1869, No. 1543

R... 8/5/69

Nos. 235-236

Water for irrigation purposes

The Supg. Engr. of the 7th Divn. requested to submit his views on the Subject of the Storage and distribution of water for irrigation purposes in the Malabar Dt.